

College and university enrollment, by control and type of institution

Colleges and universities offering 2- and 4-year programs under public and private control address different student needs. When selecting a higher education institution, students' choices are affected by the various kinds of services that institutions offer, the cost of attendance, and the availability of student financial aid. Fluctuations in enrollment among the different types of institutions may indicate a shift in student needs and interests.

- Between 1985 and 1992, enrollment in all higher education institutions increased. However, in 1993, enrollment decreased slightly and remained fairly stable through 1995 (see supplemental table 50-1).
- The distribution of total enrollment between public and private institutions changed little over the last two decades. Public institutions continue to enroll nearly 8 out of every 10 students.
- Between the mid-1980s and the early 1990s, enrollment in both public 2-year and 4-year institutions increased annually, then fell slightly between 1992 and 1995.
- Enrollment in private 4-year institutions increased steadily between 1985 and 1995. On the other hand, enrollment in private 2-year institutions fluctuated between 1985 and 1990, and then decreased between 1991 and 1995 (see supplemental table 50-1).

Index and percentage distribution of total enrollment in higher education, by control and type of institution: Fall 1972–95

| Fall of year | Index of total enrollment (1981=100) | | | | | Percentage distribution of total enrollment | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| | All institutions | Public 4-year | Public 2-year | Private 4-year | Private 2-year ¹ | All institutions | Public 4-year | Public 2-year | Private 4-year | Private 2-year |
| 1972 | 74.5 | 85.7 | 58.9 | 81.5 | 48.9 | 100.0 | 48.1 | 28.7 | 22.0 | 1.3 |
| 1974 | 82.6 | 91.0 | 73.3 | 85.0 | 50.3 | 100.0 | 46.0 | 32.1 | 20.7 | 1.2 |
| 1976 | 89.0 | 94.9 | 83.7 | 89.5 | 55.9 | 100.0 | 44.5 | 34.1 | 20.2 | 1.2 |
| 1978 | 91.0 | 95.1 | 86.5 | 93.2 | 65.7 | 100.0 | 43.6 | 34.4 | 20.6 | 1.4 |
| 1980 | 97.8 | 99.3 | 96.6 | 98.1 | 83.9 | 100.0 | 42.4 | 35.8 | 20.2 | 1.6 |
| 1981 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 41.8 | 36.2 | 20.1 | 1.9 |
| 1982 | 100.4 | 100.2 | 100.9 | 99.5 | 107.0 | 100.0 | 41.7 | 36.4 | 19.9 | 2.0 |
| 1984 | 99.0 | 100.6 | 95.5 | 101.0 | 106.9 | 100.0 | 42.5 | 35.0 | 20.5 | 2.1 |
| 1986 | 101.1 | 102.6 | 98.5 | 101.4 | 112.9 | 100.0 | 42.4 | 35.3 | 20.2 | 2.1 |
| 1988 | 105.5 | 107.3 | 103.0 | 105.8 | 110.3 | 100.0 | 42.5 | 35.4 | 20.2 | 2.0 |
| 1990 | 111.7 | 113.2 | 111.5 | 109.7 | 103.4 | 100.0 | 42.3 | 36.2 | 19.8 | 1.8 |
| 1991 | 116.1 | 114.3 | 120.6 | 112.6 | 104.9 | 100.0 | 41.1 | 37.6 | 19.5 | 1.7 |
| 1992 | 117.1 | 114.2 | 122.4 | 115.1 | 101.0 | 100.0 | 40.7 | 37.9 | 19.8 | 1.6 |
| 1993 | 115.6 | 113.3 | 119.1 | 116.0 | 97.0 | 100.0 | 40.9 | 37.3 | 20.2 | 1.6 |
| 1994 | 115.4 | 112.8 | 118.5 | 117.5 | 93.9 | 100.0 | 40.8 | 37.2 | 20.5 | 1.5 |
| 1995 ² | 115.3 | 112.5 | 117.8 | 118.7 | 91.2 | 100.0 | 40.8 | 37.0 | 20.7 | 1.5 |

¹ Data for 1982–94 are revised from previously published figures.

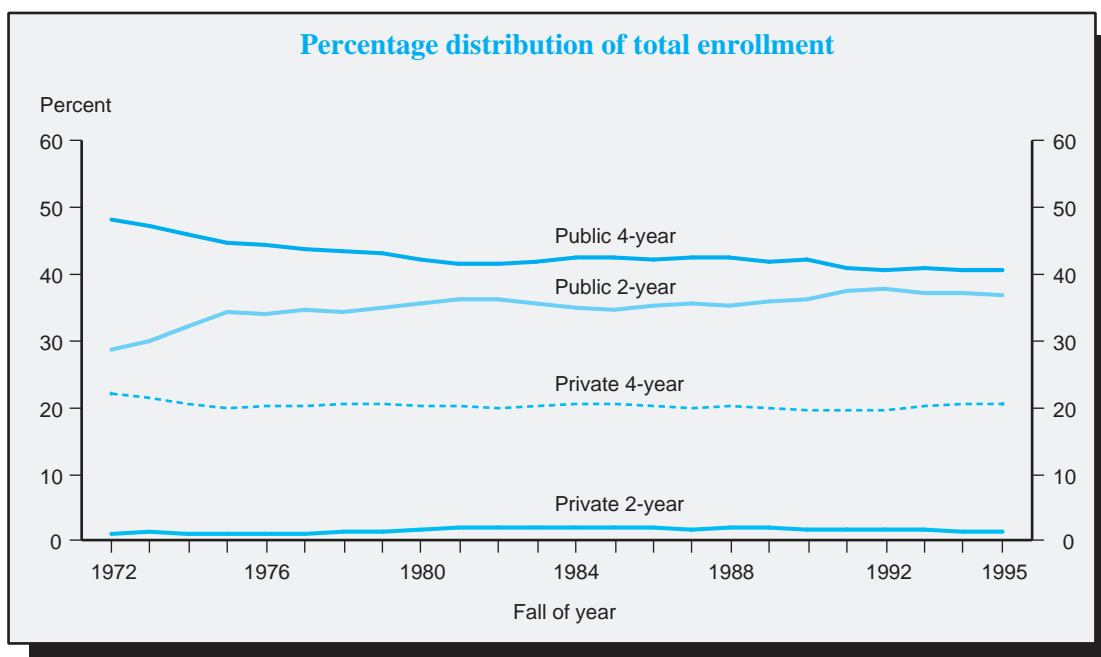
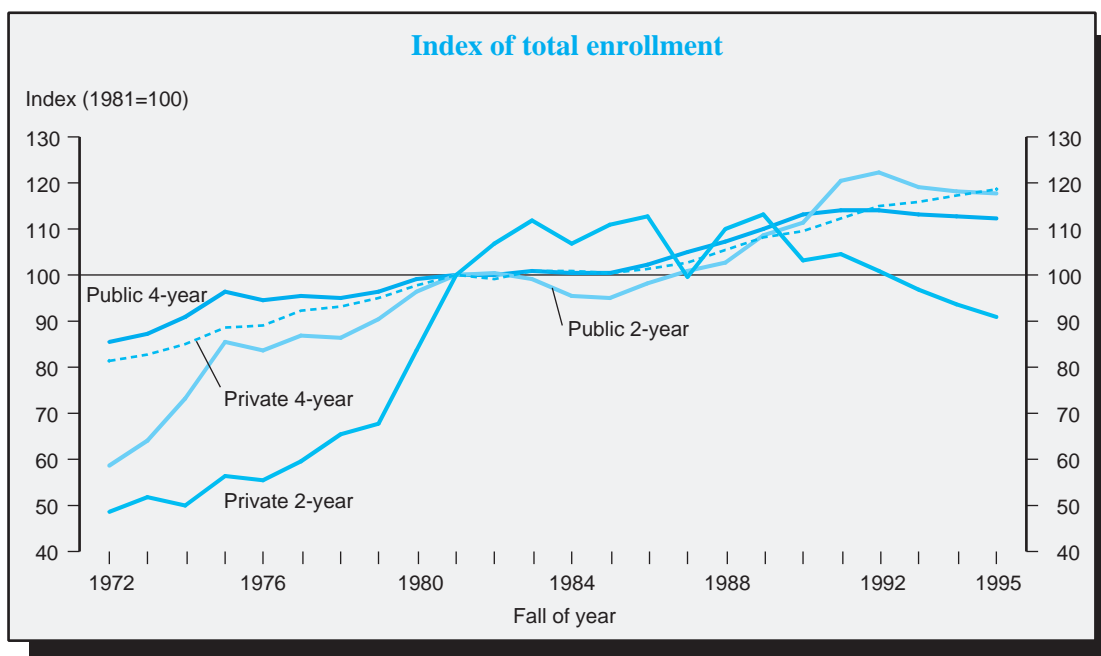
² Preliminary data.

NOTE: The index of total enrollment in higher education is calculated as the number of students enrolled in higher education institutions in a given year divided by the number of students enrolled in higher education institutions for the year 1981. A value greater than 100 indicates that more students were enrolled in higher education institutions that year

than in 1981, while a value less than 100 indicates that fewer students were enrolled that year relative to 1981. Increases in enrollments in private 2-year institutions during 1980 and 1981 reflect the addition of schools accredited by the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 1997* (based on IPEDS/HEGIS "Fall Enrollment" surveys).

Total enrollment in higher education institutions, by control and type of institution: Fall 1972–95



NOTE: Increases in enrollments in private 2-year institutions during 1980 and 1981 reflect the addition of schools accredited by the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics*, 1997 (based on IPEDS/HEGIS "Fall Enrollment" surveys).

Table 50-1 Total and full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment in higher education, by control and type of institution: Fall 1972–95

| Fall of year | All institutions | Public 4-year | Public 2-year | Private 4-year | Private 2-year |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Total enrollment | | | | | |
| 1972 | 9,214,820 | 4,429,696 | 2,640,939 | 2,028,938 | 115,247 |
| 1973 | 9,602,123 | 4,529,895 | 2,889,621 | 2,060,128 | 122,479 |
| 1974 | 10,223,729 | 4,703,018 | 3,285,482 | 2,116,717 | 118,512 |
| 1975 | 11,184,859 | 4,998,142 | 3,836,366 | 2,216,598 | 133,753 |
| 1976 | 11,012,137 | 4,901,691 | 3,751,786 | 2,227,125 | 131,535 |
| 1977 | 11,285,787 | 4,945,224 | 3,901,769 | 2,297,621 | 141,173 |
| 1978 | 11,260,092 | 4,912,203 | 3,873,690 | 2,319,422 | 154,777 |
| 1979 | 11,569,899 | 4,980,012 | 4,056,810 | 2,373,221 | 159,856 |
| 1980 | 12,096,895 | 5,128,612 | 4,328,782 | 2,441,996 | 197,505 |
| 1981 | 12,371,672 | 5,166,324 | 4,480,708 | 2,489,137 | 235,503 |
| 1982 | 12,425,780 | 5,176,434 | 4,519,653 | 2,477,640 | 252,053 |
| 1983 | 12,464,661 | 5,223,404 | 4,459,330 | 2,517,791 | 264,136 |
| 1984 | 12,241,940 | 5,198,273 | 4,279,097 | 2,512,894 | 251,676 |
| 1985 | 12,247,055 | 5,209,540 | 4,269,733 | 2,506,438 | 261,344 |
| 1986 | 12,503,511 | 5,300,202 | 4,413,691 | 2,523,761 | 265,857 |
| 1987 | 12,766,642 | 5,432,200 | 4,541,054 | 2,558,220 | 235,168 |
| 1988 | 13,055,337 | 5,545,901 | 4,615,487 | 2,634,281 | 259,668 |
| 1989 | 13,538,560 | 5,694,303 | 4,883,660 | 2,693,368 | 267,229 |
| 1990 | 13,818,637 | 5,848,242 | 4,996,475 | 2,730,312 | 243,608 |
| 1991 | 14,358,953 | 5,904,748 | 5,404,815 | 2,802,305 | 247,085 |
| 1992 | ¹ 14,487,359 | 5,900,012 | 5,484,555 | ¹ 2,864,957 | 237,835 |
| 1993 | 14,304,803 | 5,851,760 | 5,337,328 | 2,887,176 | 228,539 |
| 1994 | 14,278,790 | 5,825,213 | 5,308,467 | 2,923,867 | 221,243 |
| 1995 ² | 14,261,781 | 5,814,545 | 5,277,829 | 2,954,707 | 214,700 |
| Full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment | | | | | |
| 1972 | 7,253,712 | 3,706,238 | 1,746,613 | 1,700,554 | 100,308 |
| 1973 | 7,453,467 | 3,721,035 | 1,908,533 | 1,718,191 | 105,708 |
| 1974 | 7,805,454 | 3,847,542 | 2,097,257 | 1,758,706 | 101,949 |
| 1975 | 8,479,688 | 4,056,500 | 2,465,810 | 1,843,903 | 113,475 |
| 1976 | 8,312,502 | 3,998,450 | 2,351,453 | 1,849,551 | 113,048 |
| 1977 | 8,415,339 | 4,039,071 | 2,357,405 | 1,896,005 | 122,858 |
| 1978 | 8,348,482 | 3,996,126 | 2,283,073 | 1,936,231 | 133,052 |
| 1979 | 8,487,317 | 4,059,304 | 2,333,313 | 1,956,768 | 137,932 |
| 1980 | 8,819,013 | 4,158,267 | 2,484,027 | 2,003,105 | 173,614 |
| 1981 | 9,014,521 | 4,208,506 | 2,572,794 | 2,041,341 | 191,880 |
| 1982 | 9,091,648 | 4,220,648 | 2,629,941 | 2,028,275 | 212,784 |
| 1983 | 9,166,398 | 4,265,807 | 2,615,672 | 2,059,415 | 225,504 |
| 1984 | 8,951,695 | 4,237,895 | 2,446,769 | 2,054,816 | 212,215 |
| 1985 | 8,943,433 | 4,239,622 | 2,428,159 | 2,054,717 | 220,935 |
| 1986 | 9,064,165 | 4,295,494 | 2,482,551 | 2,064,831 | 221,291 |
| 1987 | 9,229,736 | 4,395,728 | 2,541,961 | 2,090,776 | 201,269 |
| 1988 | 9,464,271 | 4,505,774 | 2,591,131 | 2,158,372 | 208,994 |
| 1989 | 9,780,881 | 4,619,828 | 2,751,762 | 2,193,774 | 215,517 |
| 1990 | 9,983,436 | 4,740,049 | 2,817,933 | 2,227,959 | 197,495 |
| 1991 | 10,360,606 | 4,795,704 | 3,067,141 | 2,285,750 | 212,011 |
| 1992 | ¹ 10,436,776 | 4,797,884 | 3,113,817 | ¹ 2,331,495 | 193,580 |
| 1993 | 10,351,415 | 4,765,983 | 3,046,411 | 2,354,938 | 184,083 |
| 1994 | 10,348,072 | 4,749,524 | 3,034,872 | 2,387,817 | 175,859 |
| 1995 ² | 10,334,956 | 4,757,223 | 2,994,592 | 2,415,621 | 167,520 |

¹ Revised from previously published figures.² Preliminary data.

NOTE: Increases in enrollments in private 2-year institutions during 1980 and 1981 reflect the addition of schools accredited by the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools. Due to a revision in data compilation procedures,

FTE figures for 1986 and later years are not directly comparable to data for earlier years.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 1997*, tables 170 and 196 (based on the IPEDS/HEGIS "Fall Enrollment" surveys).